

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method, comprising:
2 receiving, at a first storage unit, an I/O command from a host;
3 generating an identifier that identifies a destination to which the I/O command is
4 to be transmitted from the first storage unit;
5 augmenting the I/O command with the generated identifier at the first storage unit;
6 and
7 transmitting the augmented I/O command.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at a second storage unit,
3 wherein the second storage unit is associated with a second storage unit identifier;
4 determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that augmented
5 the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and
6 executing the I/O command, at the second storage unit, in response to determining
7 that the generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is the same as the second
8 storage unit identifier.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at a second storage unit,
3 wherein the second storage unit is associated with a second storage unit identifier;
4 determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that augmented
5 the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and
6 generating a failure, at the second storage unit, in response to determining that the
7 generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is not the same as the second
8 storage unit identifier.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the second storage unit is a second storage
2 control unit, and wherein generating the identifier further comprises:

3 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Node Name of the second storage
4 control unit;

5 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre
6 channel adapter coupled to the second storage control unit, wherein the port is used for
7 communications; and

8 associating with the identifier, a storage subsystem identification of a storage
9 subsystem coupled to the second storage control unit.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first storage unit is coupled to a first
2 fibre channel adapter, wherein the destination is coupled to a second fibre channel
3 adapter, wherein the first fibre channel adapter is coupled to the second fibre channel
4 adapter via a switched fabric, and wherein the switched fabric includes a plurality of
5 switches.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first storage unit is a primary storage
2 control unit and the destination is a secondary storage control unit, and wherein the
3 primary storage control unit is coupled to the secondary storage control unit.

1 7. A method, comprising:
2 receiving, at a storage unit, an I/O command, wherein the storage unit is
3 associated with a storage unit identifier;
4 determining, at the storage unit, whether the I/O command is associated with an
5 identifier that identifies a destination for which the I/O command is intended; and
6 determining, at the storage unit, whether the identifier is the same as the storage
7 unit identifier, in response to determining that the identifier associated with the I/O
8 command identifies the destination for which the I/O command is intended.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 executing the I/O command, at the storage unit, in response to determining that
3 the identifier is the same as the storage unit identifier.

1 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 generating a failure, at the storage unit, in response to determining that the
3 identifier is not the same as the as the storage unit identifier.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the storage unit is a secondary storage
2 control unit, and wherein the identifier further comprises:
3 a World Wide Node Name of the secondary storage control unit;
4 a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre channel adapter coupled to the
5 secondary storage control unit, wherein the port is used for communications; and
6 a storage subsystem identification of a storage subsystem coupled to the secondary
7 storage control unit.

1 11. A system, comprising:
2 a first storage unit;
3 a host coupled to the first storage unit;
4 means for receiving, at the first storage unit, an I/O command from the host;
5 means for generating an identifier that identifies a destination to which the I/O
6 command is to be transmitted from the first storage unit;
7 means for augmenting the I/O command with the generated identifier at the first
8 storage unit; and
9 means for transmitting the augmented I/O command.

1 12. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
2 a second storage unit coupled to the first storage unit;
3 a second storage unit identifier associated with the second storage unit;
4 means for receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at the second
5 storage unit;
6 determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that augmented
7 the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and

8 executing the I/O command, at the second storage unit, in response to determining
9 that the generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is the same as the second
10 storage unit identifier.

1 13. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
2 a second storage unit coupled to the first storage unit;
3 a second storage unit identifier associated with the second storage unit;
4 means for receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at the second
5 storage unit;
6 means for determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that
7 augmented the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and
8 means for generating a failure, at the second storage unit, in response to
9 determining that the generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is not the same
10 as the second storage unit identifier.

1 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the second storage unit is a second
2 storage control unit, and wherein the means for generating the identifier further performs:
3 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Node Name of the second storage
4 control unit;
5 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre
6 channel adapter coupled to the second storage control unit, wherein the port is used for
7 communications; and
8 associating with the identifier, a storage subsystem identification of a storage
9 subsystem coupled to the second storage control unit.

1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein the first storage unit is coupled to a first
2 fibre channel adapter, wherein the destination is coupled to a second fibre channel
3 adapter, wherein the first fibre channel adapter is coupled to the second fibre channel
4 adapter via a switched fabric, and wherein the switched fabric includes a plurality of
5 switches.

1 16. The system of claim 11, wherein the first storage unit is a primary storage
2 control unit and the destination is a secondary storage control unit, and wherein the
3 primary storage control unit is coupled to the secondary storage control unit.

1 17. A system, comprising:
2 a storage unit;
3 a storage unit identifier associated with the storage unit;
4 means for receiving, at the storage unit, an I/O command;
5 means for determining, at the storage unit, whether the I/O command is associated
6 with an identifier that identifies a destination for which the I/O command is intended; and
7 means for determining, at the storage unit, whether the identifier is the same as the
8 storage unit identifier, in response to determining that the identifier associated with the
9 I/O command identifies the destination for which the I/O command is intended.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 means for executing the I/O command, at the storage unit, in response to
3 determining that the identifier is the same as the storage unit identifier.

1 19. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 means for generating a failure, at the storage unit, in response to determining that
3 the identifier is not the same as the as the storage unit identifier.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the storage unit is a secondary storage
2 control unit, and wherein the identifier further comprises:
3 a World Wide Node Name of the secondary storage control unit;
4 a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre channel adapter coupled to the
5 secondary storage control unit, wherein the port is used for communications; and
6 a storage subsystem identification of a storage subsystem coupled to the secondary
7 storage control unit.

1 21. An article of manufacture, wherein the article of manufacture is capable of
2 causing operations, the operations comprising:
3 receiving, at a first storage unit, an I/O command from a host;
4 generating an identifier that identifies a destination to which the I/O command is
5 to be transmitted from the first storage unit;
6 augmenting the I/O command with the generated identifier at the first storage unit;
7 and
8 transmitting the augmented I/O command.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, the operations further comprising:
2 receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at a second storage unit,
3 wherein the second storage unit is associated with a second storage unit identifier;
4 determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that augmented
5 the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and
6 executing the I/O command, at the second storage unit, in response to determining
7 that the generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is the same as the second
8 storage unit identifier.

1 23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, the operations further comprising:
2 receiving the transmitted augmented I/O command at a second storage unit,
3 wherein the second storage unit is associated with a second storage unit identifier;
4 determining, at the second storage unit, if the generated identifier that augmented
5 the I/O command is the same as the second storage unit identifier; and
6 generating a failure, at the second storage unit, in response to determining that the
7 generated identifier that augmented the I/O command is not the same as the second
8 storage unit identifier.

1 24. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the second storage unit is
2 a second storage control unit, and wherein generating the identifier further comprises:

3 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Node Name of the second storage
4 control unit;

5 associating with the identifier, a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre
6 channel adapter coupled to the second storage control unit, wherein the port is used for
7 communications; and

8 associating with the identifier, a storage subsystem identification of a storage
9 subsystem coupled to the second storage control unit.

1 25. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the first storage unit is
2 coupled to a first fibre channel adapter, wherein the destination is coupled to a second
3 fibre channel adapter, wherein the first fibre channel adapter is coupled to the second
4 fibre channel adapter via a switched fabric, and wherein the switched fabric includes a
5 plurality of switches.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the first storage unit is a
2 primary storage control unit and the destination is a secondary storage control unit, and
3 wherein the primary storage control unit is coupled to the secondary storage control unit.

1 27. An article of manufacture, wherein the article of manufacture is capable of
2 causing operations, the operations comprising:

3 receiving, at a storage unit, an I/O command, wherein the storage unit is
4 associated with a storage unit identifier;

5 determining, at the storage unit, whether the I/O command is associated with an
6 identifier that identifies a destination for which the I/O command is intended; and

7 determining, at the storage unit, whether the identifier is the same as the storage
8 unit identifier, in response to determining that the identifier associated with the I/O
9 command identifies the destination for which the I/O command is intended.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, the operations further comprising:

1 executing the I/O command, at the storage unit, in response to determining that
2 the identifier is the same as the storage unit identifier.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, the operations further comprising:
2 generating a failure, at the storage unit, in response to determining that the
3 identifier is not the same as the as the storage unit identifier.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the storage unit is a
2 secondary storage control unit, and wherein the identifier further comprises:
3 a World Wide Node Name of the secondary storage control unit;
4 a World Wide Port Name of a port of a fibre channel adapter coupled to the
5 secondary storage control unit, wherein the port is used for communications; and
6 a storage subsystem identification of a storage subsystem coupled to the secondary
7 storage control unit.